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U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

RECEIVED
OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

AUG 29 2016

EPA-REGION 10

As the owner of Power Sports Marine, I'm on the Willamette River every day. It's right outside my window. I rely on it for the success of my business. We're a boat dealership and have been in business for about eight years. We're located at the boat ramp, so anything that would disrupt that area would disrupt my business. It would make it difficult to sell anything, or to service or test boats.

The EPA is currently proposing to dredge portions of a 10-mile stretch of the river right near where my business is located. They are proposing this as the way to clean up the pollution underneath the river that's been there for decades. I am against this process for two main reasons. First, it would have a huge impact on my business, and also on the entire Portland economy. It would affect tourism, recreation, and everything else. The whole point of Portland is that we have a river that runs through the center of it. That's 80% of what people appreciate about Portland. To do anything to change that would make it a totally different city.

Plus, the EPA would have to get the estimated \$746 million to \$1.4 billion this project would cost from somewhere. We don't have it here. We already have some of the highest business taxes and fees in the country. If my business taxes went up to help pay for this EPA plan, I would have to consider laying employees off. Other businesses would have to do the same. We have so many better places to spend the money that would help our economy, like fixing our crumbling infrastructure and making our bridges safe.

My other problem with the EPA plan is that it would cost us money and then actually do more harm than good. A less invasive approach should be tried first--one that takes into account the fact that the river's own processes are already helping to reduce the dangers from what's on the river bottom. Often, when you disturb one thing, you hurt other things. By digging up the riverbed, there will be impacts on fisheries and wildlife. What's on the bottom now might be harmful, but it's less harmful laying there covered up, than being redistributed throughout the river. The toxic substances can get into the fish, which then swim into all the tributaries. What began as one small red dot of a problem could easily turn into a systemic one.

As a business owner and a resident of Portland, I see too many flaws with the EPA's current plan. It would be best to step back and take all the factors into consideration, *then* devise a plan that will cost less and that will actually work.

Sincerely,

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Owner

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PORTLAND, OR 97239